



Embassy of the United States, Addis Ababa

Volume 7, Issue 43

November 10, 2005

# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

## Statement By European Union And U.S. Ambassadors

November 6, 2005 Addis Ababa

As long term constructive partners of Ethiopia and its people, the US Government and the European Union, working closely with the wider international community, helped to create a political dialogue aiming to build trust between the opposition



**Amb. Huddleston (second left), Amb. Brigitte Öppinger-Walchshofer of Austria, UK Amb. Bob Dewar (Presidency of the European Union), and Amb. Timothy Clarke, Head of the Delegation of the European Union, at the press conference.**

and the government with a view to helping resolve the post-election crisis.

We urgently call upon all political parties and the Ethiopian people to desist

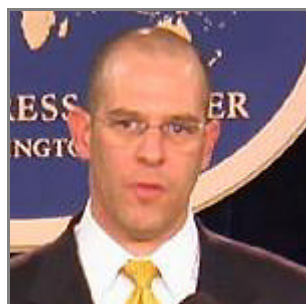
from further violence and to abide by the rule of law and the Constitution. They should pursue their political aims by peaceful Parliamentary and Municipal democratic means.

Although some Opposition parties and mem-

bers took their seats in Parliament, the present failure of the EPRDF and

(Continued on page 2)

## U.S. Urges All Parties in Ethiopia to Refrain from Violence



**Adam Erel  
Deputy Spokesman**

The United States "deplores the political violence" in Ethiopia and urges all parties to prevent actions that directly or indirectly could incite violence, harm individuals or lead to the destruction of public or private property, the U.S. State Department said November 7.

In a written statement, State Department deputy spokesman Adam Erel said: "The ambassadors of the United States and European Union issued a statement in Addis Ababa on November 6, 2005, that offers a way ahead to defuse the current situation and allows the political opposition to

(Continued on page 5)

### U.S. and Ethiopia

United States Urges Restraint Following Violence in Ethiopia (P 3)

United States Urges Peaceful Dialogue in Ethiopia (P 4)

U.S. Naval Construction Team Building Wells in Ethiopia (P 6)

### African issues

Sudan Parties "Need to Regain Momentum," State's Zoellick Says (P 6)

African Muslim Says Islam in America Teaches Reconciliation (P 7)

Africans and Americans Must Build on AGOA Foundation (P 8)

### American News

Bush Sends Eid al-Fitr Greetings to the World's Muslims (P 9)

U.S. House, Senate Agree on \$20.9 Billion Foreign Spending Bill (P 10)

United States Releases 2005 International Religious Freedom Report (P 11)

Scholarships Established to Honor Rosa Parks' Legacy (P12)

Foreign Student Enrollment at U.S. Graduate Schools Up in 2005 (P 13)

### Health Issues

World Needs Clear Response to Pandemic Flu, U.S. Official Says (P 14)

U.S. Grants Aim to Stop Environment-Related Children's Diseases (P 15)

Measles Down by 60 Percent in Africa, 1 Million Lives Saved (P 16)

---

## Statement By European Union And U.S. Ambassadors . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

the CUD/P to resolve their differences through dialogue, has led to violence and has undermined the credibility of Parliament and the democracy building process. This violence has also damaged Ethiopia's international reputation.

We express serious concern that CUD/P party leaders and some members of civil society have been arrested.

Unrest has spiraled out of control with tragic results. We express our sincere condolences to the families of the dead and injured and condemn all violence, whether by security forces or demonstrators. All sides should ensure that children are not involved in violence and their rights are respected.

These distressing events have further deepened mistrust as well as political and social divisions. We strongly believe the Ethiopian people need reassurance that there is a peaceful and just way forward. To this end we encourage the Government to restore peace and confidence in the democracy building process by ensuring due process of law and respect for human rights in accordance with international practice and its own commitments.

Therefore we urge the government and, where relevant, the Opposition, to carry out the following measures:

- Immediate end to the use of lethal force, random searches and indiscriminate beatings and massive arrests;
- All political detainees should be released;
- Speedy review and – where appropriate – release of individuals detained in the recent demonstrations;
- Immediate lifting of any restrictions currently imposed on those CUD/P leaders and members not detained;
- Immediate access by families, legal counsel and the International Red Cross and/or other appropriate representative of the international community, to jailed CUD/P, civil society and media leaders, as well as provision of medicines, food and other humanitarian needs;
- Notification to families of names and whereabouts of detainees together with appropriate access and provision of humanitarian needs;
- An independent investigation of the deaths and injuries arising from recent events and the events in June;
- Review and revision of Parliamentary rules and practices to ensure that all parties repre-

sented in Parliament can participate on a fair and representative basis;

- Re-opening of the private media and promotion of a code of conduct for the media to ensure a balanced and responsible flow of information to the public;
- Appointment of a National Election Board in consultation with the Parliamentary Opposition.

As regards the Opposition, and without prejudice to their constitutional rights, we call upon them at this very sensitive time, to disassociate themselves from and to discourage all actions that could directly or indirectly incite violence, harm individuals or lead to the destruction of public and private property.

In a spirit of promoting reconciliation, the European Union and US Ambassadors urge the re-opening of political dialogue designed to foster peace and to build a strong democratic nation, based on a commitment to the rule of law and democratic principles. ♦

---

## United States Urges Restraint Following Violence in Ethiopia



Sean McCormack

The United States is urging restraint by the government of Ethiopia in dealing with recent public demonstrations against Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and the ruling

Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, according to a November 2 State Department statement.

The statement urged the release of political detainees, including opposition supporters recently arrested, and called for fair trials for those detained and for the establishment of an independent commission "to investigate today's public demonstrations and those of June 8," which led to the deaths and injuries of dozens of demonstrators.

Prime Minister Meles and his party won a hotly contested national election in May. Despite strong gains in the polls by opposition parties, final electoral results gave Meles' ruling party control of 60 percent of the parliament. (See re-

lated article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2005/Jun/20-276659.html>).

Violence erupted after weeks of allegations by the opposition the ruling party had intimidated voters and rigged the elections in order to hold onto power in the Horn of Africa nation.

Following is the text of the State Department statement:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
November 2, 2005

STATEMENT BY SEAN MCCORMACK, SPOKESMAN

Ethiopia: Arrest of Opposition Leaders

We call on all parties to immediately show restraint to step back from the current environment of heightened political tension and call on the Ethiopian government to establish an independent commission to investigate today's public demonstrations and those of June 8 in which dozens of demonstrators were killed. We deplore the use of violence and deliberate attempts to invoke violence in a misguided attempt to resolve political differences. Our thoughts and

prayers are with the families of those who lost their lives as a result of the senseless violence.

We call on the Ethiopian government to release all political detainees, including the many opposition supporters arrested in recent weeks. Senior opposition leaders arrested today should be treated humanely and, if charged, assured of a just and timely trial before an impartial court of law.

We call on the opposition to refrain from inciting civil disobedience during this time of heightened tension. While the ability to protest peacefully is a legitimate right in a democracy, violent demonstrations pose a substantial threat to public safety and do nothing to advance democracy. The United States believes that the way best forward for Ethiopia is through full participation of all political groups in the democratic process, including for elected members of the opposition to take their seats in Parliament and to assume the administration of the city of Addis Ababa.

(end text)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U. S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)*

---

## United States Urges Peaceful Dialogue in Ethiopia

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The United States continues to urge both the government and political opposition in Ethiopia "to resolve whatever differences they may have through peaceful means," State Department spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters November 4.

Speaking at the department's daily press briefing, McCormack said: "It furthers no one's cause to try to manipulate situations in order to provoke a violent reaction. We think that peaceful dialogue is the way to resolve what is in fact a political issue."

McCormack said the United States has "also urged those who were elected in the opposition to be allowed to take their seats not only in the governance of Addis Ababa, but as well in the parliament."

The spokesman told reporters that Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs R. Nicholas Burns had spoken earlier in the day by telephone with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi.

"Our understanding is that ... for the moment ... in terms of violence in Addis Ababa, the situation has calmed somewhat. But we underlined the importance, as I did yesterday from the podium and the day before ... that anybody who might have been arrested in these demonstrations for political reasons should be released immediately."

Burns, according to McCormack, also told the Ethiopian leader that anyone who is accused of perpe-

trating any acts of violence in the demonstrations should be granted the full rights under the judicial system, have a speedy hearing of their cases and that those cases proceed in a transparent manner.

McCormack provided a summary of the immediate situation:

Prime Minister Meles and his party won a hotly contested national election in May. Despite strong gains in the polls by opposition parties, final electoral results gave Meles' ruling party control of 60 percent of the parliament.

Violence erupted after weeks of allegations by the opposition that the ruling party had intimidated voters and rigged the elections to hold onto power in the Horn of Africa nation.

Asked if the United States condemns the use of excessive force, McCormack said: "We think that violent provocations and the use of violence is not the way to resolve what are political differences. The deaths as a result of the actions surrounding these protests are senseless -- these are senseless deaths, and they're tragic."

### OBJECTIVE EXAMINATION OF FACTS NEEDED, MCCORMACK SAYS

In an effort to sort out what happened during these protests, McCormack said the United States has called for the establishment of an independent inquiry.

"We believe that is the way to move forward. ... And once you determine the facts, if there are those who are responsible for acts of -- these acts of violence, if they

broke laws, they need to be held to account," he said.

"But you know," he continued, "violence is not the way forward for either side." The United States, he said, calls upon both sides to "engage in a peaceful dialogue, to back away from the use of violence [and not] to try to provoke the other side into violence."

Asked if the State Department has been in contact with the political opposition in Ethiopia, McCormack said: "I know our people on the ground in the embassy ... have been in contact in recent days with both sides. But I don't know specifically if they were in contact with those people who were arrested."

McCormack said there were reports that there were violent clashes between protesters and police, and that police responded with the use of live rounds. He called those reports "disturbing."

"In order to sort out the facts surrounding these protests and the violent actions that occurred around them, we think that the inquiry is the right way to try to get at those facts, in a sort of objective manner, to find out exactly what happened," he said.

In terms of the actions along the Ethiopian-Eritrean border, McCormack said: "It's important to ... step back and understand what some of the current tensions are about. There's a line of demarcation that was drawn by the U.N., and I think that there was some difference of opinion on part of that."

*(Continued on page 5)*

---

## U.S. Urges All Parties in Ethiopia to Refrain from Violence . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

play a meaningful role in Ethiopian political life. The United States calls on the government of Ethiopia to take the actions outlined in that statement."

Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and his party won a hotly contested national election in May. Despite strong gains in the polls by opposition parties, final electoral results gave Meles' ruling party control of 60 percent of the parliament.

Violence erupted after weeks of allegations by the opposition that the ruling party had intimidated voters and rigged the elections to hold onto power in the Horn of Africa nation. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2005/Nov/04-419994.html>).)

Following is the text of the State

Department statement:

(begin text)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Spokesman November 7, 2005

Statement by Adam Ereli, Deputy Spokesman

Ethiopian Political Violence

The United States deplores the political violence in Ethiopia and urges all parties to prevent actions that could directly or indirectly incite violence, harm individuals, or lead to the destruction of public or private property.

The Ambassadors of the United States and European Union issued a statement in Addis Ababa on November 6, 2005, that offers a way ahead to defuse the current situation and allows the political opposition to play a meaningful role in

Ethiopian political life. The United States calls on the Government of Ethiopia to take the actions outlined in that statement.

We particularly note the need to end lethal force, random searches, indiscriminate beatings and arrests; to release political detainees; to grant immediate access by families, legal counsel, and the ICRC or other representative of the international community to jailed opposition party, civil society, and media leaders; to review and revise parliamentary practices and rules to ensure the opposition has an effective voice; to establish an independent commission to investigate death and injuries sustained in the June 8 and recent events; and to reopen private media and establish by all parties a code of conduct to ensure balance and responsible flow of information.

(end text) ♦

## United States Urges Peaceful Dialogue in Ethiopia . . .

*(Continued from page 4)*

In terms of recent actions, McCormack said: "I understand that the Eritrean government banned some flights of the U.N. monitoring mission. And there have also been reports of troops' redeployments along the border. We think that Ethiopia has redeployed some troops along the border, and we have seen that ... at this point it is unclear whether or not Eritrea has redeployed troops along that border."

McCormack again counseled: "This is a situation where there has been a history of violence. But you know, through the

good offices of the U.N. and others, they were able to step back from that violence, and there has been a period of relative calm along that border and while you've had that U.N. monitoring mission in there."

Currently, McCormack told reporters, the United States is "in contact with the United Nations. Secretary Rice spoke with Secretary-General [Kofi] Annan about this issue recently. And it's something that we're watching closely."

Under Secretary Burns had some discussion about the issue with

Prime Minister Meles that same morning, McCormack told reporters, and "Burns underlined that we are going to be looking with the U.N. at ways that we might help both sides de-escalate from the situation now, where there seems to be tensions are rising along the border, along that line."

Asked if Burns had any plans to travel to Ethiopia, McCormack said, "I don't believe he has any plans at the current time to travel there, but we're looking at what we might do in conjunction with the U.N. on the issue." ♦



---

## U.S. Naval Construction Team Building Wells in Ethiopia

The following article originally appeared in the U.S. Central Command/Coalition Newsletter October 5. There are no publication restrictions.

(begin byliner)

### Seabees Bring Water to Africa By Jason Piatek

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti -- While the Navy celebrated its 230th birthday, the Seabees started their first well-drilling mission in Africa.

The Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa's naval construction team, United States Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 3, left to

rebuild one well and construct two more in Ethiopia Oct. 13.

The wells will supply water to the people of the Harar region, which has an estimated population of more than 75,000.

"Being in a place like this where water is so hard to come by and knowing we're giving people water who've never had water before ... this is a really rewarding mission to be on," said Steel Worker Third Class Jared M. Perry.

The mission, coordinated through the local government and CJTF-HOA [Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa], is expected to take from three to four months,

depending on the conditions at the site.

"Once we start drilling, we'll find out exactly how long the process will take," said Equipment Operator 1st Class Thomas N. Allen. "If we hit water at 100 feet, and there's good water there, then it'll be very quick. But depending on how deep we have to go and the conditions we're drilling through, it could take as long as a month per well."

No matter what roadblocks the Seabees run into during their drills, Allen is confident they will succeed.

*(Continued on page 9)*

## Sudan Parties "Need to Regain Momentum," State's Zoellick Says

The various parties in Sudan "need to regain momentum" and "apply themselves to the hard work of peace," U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick said November 7, in a press briefing aboard his aircraft en route to Nairobi, Kenya.

The framework for peace is there, Zoellick said, in the form of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement negotiated by the Sudanese, but the task now is "to build the confidence of the parties to work with one another, to pursue the course of the peace."

Of the parties in Darfur, particularly the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM), Zoellick said, "I would urge them to unify in the most inclusive fashion as possible."



**Robert B. Zoellick at a press conference in Khartoum, Nov 9, 2005.**

"Since we've got to make sure that we're stopping the violence, returning to the cease-fire, I'm also going to be pressing them about how their military structure relates to their political structure," he said.

Zoellick is leading a high-level U.S. delegation that includes Deputy Secretary of State for African Affairs Jendayi Frazer. He was on his way to Kenya to meet with leaders of the Darfur rebel SLM, pressing them to set aside their internal differences, respect the cease-fire and develop a unified position for the peace negotiations in Abuja, Nigeria.

For additional information, see Darfur Humanitarian Emergency (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/darfur.html>).

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦*

---

## African Muslim Says Islam in America Teaches Reconciliation

By Jim Fisher-Thompson and Greg Garland  
Washington File Staff Writers

Washington -- Islam as practiced in America contains subtle alterations that change the religion by erasing many of the schisms that plague Muslims elsewhere, thus promoting reconciliation, says Bayono Valy, a journalist and researcher who also serves as press officer for the Islamic Council of Mozambique.

Valy recently led a roundtable discussion at the American Embassy in Maputo, Mozambique, based on his participation in the Department of State-sponsored International Visitor Leadership Program.

After touring the United States for three weeks, he argued that American Muslims offer a model of Islamic reconciliation, whether divisions are theological or ethnic.

Valy's remarks were reported by the U.S. Embassy in Maputo after its public affairs section hosted him and about 25 other Muslims and journalists at an iftar event to break the daytime fast during the Muslim holy month Ramadan.

Speaking from direct experience during his U.S. visit, Valy dispelled the common misimpression that Muslims form an underclass in the United States. He listed figures to the contrary, citing high income and educational levels among Muslims living in America. In fact, he pointed out, Iranian-Americans are among the most successful immigrants in American history.

Taken together, he said, Muslims represent perhaps the fastest-



**A four year old looks up to his father during a noon prayer service at the Islamic Center of the Lehigh Valley in Whitehall, Pennsylvania. (AP Photo/The Morning Call, Douglas Benedict)**

growing religious group in the United States, now outnumbering Jews and many individual Christian denominations.

According to the embassy, what struck Valy most was not size, growth or affluence of Islam in the United States -- it was its relative lack of internal discord.

The sectarian and ethnic schisms that plague Islam in the Middle East and Africa simply do not exist in the United States, the Mozambican told his audience.

Typically, American mosques encompass many ethnicities and both major sects without distinguishing one from the other, Valy explained, noting that the practice of treating all Muslims equally reflects the original Islam of Mecca before the Sunni-Shi'a split emerged. Is-

lam as practiced in the United States thus presents Muslims around the world a model of unity and internal reconciliation, he said.

With that in mind, he counseled his fellow Muslims to stop thinking of the United States as an enemy of religion but rather to begin to see that American Islam has something important to offer traditional Muslim societies.

Valey also offered his view that American Muslims arrived at this point by accentuating what believers have in common, rather than their differences. American converts, including African-American Muslims, simply do not care about Old World divisions, he said. As a result, American Muslims of all backgrounds tend to see themselves as Muslims, not Sunnis or

*(Continued on page 17)*

---

## Africans and Americans Must Build on AGOA Foundation

By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Even though the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) has been successful in stimulating trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa, much remains to be done on both continents to further enhance trade and economic development, says Stephen Hayes, president of the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA).

In an October 27 interview with the Washington File, Hayes said that “AGOA has been very important and a very positive factor in U.S.-Africa relations,” but he cautioned that “a lot of [the 37 AGOA-eligible] countries have not been able to benefit from AGOA as much as they had hoped.”

AGOA, enacted May 18, 2000, as Title I of the Trade and Development Act of 2000, offers tangible incentives for African countries to continue their efforts to open their economies and build free markets. The original act has been amended twice, to alter or clarify certain provisions and to extend its expiration date.

Hayes decried AGOA’s emphasis on textiles, an emphasis that he said has left some of the countries that initially had great starts in textiles “highly vulnerable” following the recent expiration of the Multi-Fiber Agreement of 1974.

For that reason, he said, “a lot more emphasis needs to be put on other sectors, especially agriculture. Every country in Africa can produce agriculture,” he stressed, while counseling the United States to make some adjustments in its own agricultural trade policies.

Hayes also cautioned: “AGOA cannot work as effectively as we would like until there is greater infrastructure development and more supporting mechanisms that will permit Africans to produce world-class in-demand products.

“There needs to be greater investment, particularly by U.S. companies, in Africa and particularly at the manufacturing and production level – to go beyond primary production” to more value-added production that generates greater income.

“The real money to be made in a country is to have value-added trade, where raw commodities like coffee, tea or fruits are not just grown but processed and packaged in the country of origin so they can be sold at a higher value,” he said.

### **AGOA, MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT EFFECTIVE PILLARS OF U.S. POLICY**

Hayes said that there are at least two effective pillars of U.S. policy in Africa: AGOA and the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). “I think now we need to just continue to build on the foundation [laid by AGOA], with some new initiatives that build upon those pillars,” he said.

Both AGOA and MCA, he said, “got it right” in how to encourage change in Africa, but he warned, “More is needed.” He called AGOA “a good platform” for an even better U.S.-Africa relationship.

To bring that into existence, he said, “we should stop tinkering with AGOA. It’s been good. It’s

been great in some ways. We use it, but we have got to expand our involvement. From a political and economic point and not from a humanitarian point,” he explained, “it is really in our most vital interest that Africa develop because ... it is an area that could have many great allies for the United States in the long term.”

What must be looked for in the wake of the recent Group of Eight nations meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland, he said, is a way for those nations that made a commitment to Africa, along with the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, to support greater infrastructure development on the continent as a whole.

Second, he cautioned, the private sector, particularly the U.S. private sector, is “not blameless.” He said one of CCA’s main jobs will be to send its staff members across the United States to convince U.S. companies that “Africa is a good investment.”

### **MORE HELP NEEDED FOR SMALL BUSINESSES**

Hayes said any enhancement of AGOA also must make it easier for small business to develop. “AGOA is great but not of use if they [small businesses] are not able to use it,” he said. He praised the Bush administration for all it has done for Africa with regard to AGOA, but he said the reality of Africa is that “if we are going to make this work really as well as we would hope, we need to be doing a lot more.”

Hayes said a further enhancement of trade between sub-Saharan Africa and the United States also is being impeded by a

*(Continued on page 17)*



---

## Bush Sends Eid al-Fitr Greetings to the World's Muslims

President Bush sent greetings to Muslims around the world November 4 on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr, the festival that ends the holy month of Ramadan.

In a White House press statement, the president welcomed the generous contributions of American Muslims to relief efforts in the wake of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

Following is the text of the press statement:

(begin text)

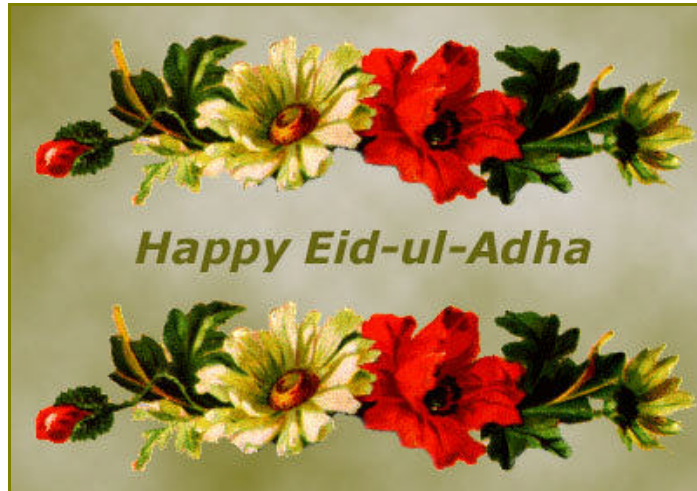
THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
(Mar del Plata, Argentina)  
November 4, 2005

I send warm greetings to American Muslims and Muslims around the world observing Eid al-Fitr, the Festival of Breaking the Fast.

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of

Ramadan, a time of prayer, reflection, and fasting. It is the holiest month of the Muslim year. To celebrate this holiday, many Muslims gather in their homes and mosques to thank God for His

to those affected by the devastating earthquake in South Asia. Their contributions have been generous and reflect the important values shared by all Americans.



Our Nation is blessed to count many Muslims among our fellow citizens. As Americans, we share a commitment to family, a belief in God's justice and man's moral responsibility, and hope for a future of peace and tolerance.

Laura and I send our best wishes for a joyful celebration. Eid Mubarak.

GEORGE W. BUSH

(end text)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

blessings and His help in keeping the fast. Muslims also demonstrate their compassion by reaching out to the less fortunate and giving gifts of money or food to help those in need. This year, many American Muslims have reached out to the victims of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma and

## U.S. Naval Construction Team Building Wells in Ethiopia . . .

*(Continued from page 6)*

"This is the real thing, what we train for. All the Seabees work hard prior to coming out into the field, so they're always at the top of their game," he said.

The "game plan" is to start by rebuilding the area's pre-existing well in order to provide the water they will need to drill the other two wells.

"The well they have now is fal-

ling apart," Allen said. "The outside casing is broken down, and the waiting is exposed."

The Seabees have two teams, which will work in shifts to keep operations moving 24-7 [24 hours a day, 7 days a week].

Once complete, the wells should be able to operate for several years without any maintenance. However, many Seabees would not mind going back to do more work

there.

"This is such a great opportunity," Perry said. "In the civilian world back home, you drill a well, and it's just for one person or one company. Out here, it's for whole towns and cities ... it just seems like doing this kind of work for these people is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that not many people can say they're a part of."

(end byliner)♦

---

## U.S. House, Senate Agree on \$20.9 Billion Foreign Spending Bill

By Kathryn McConnell  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- U.S. House of Representatives and Senate conferees have agreed on a \$20.9 billion foreign operations spending measure for the fiscal year that began October 1 (FY 2006).

The measure was approved by conferees' voice vote November 1. Quick floor action in the full House and Senate is now expected on this final version of the spending bill, which then would be sent to President Bush for signature or veto.

The consensus bill would allocate \$1.9 billion less than the president's request but \$1.4 billion more than the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2005.

The bill would provide \$1.78 billion for the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), President Bush's initiative that promotes democratic change and sound economic policies in developing countries by linking aid to reforms designed to combat corruption and stimulate growth. (See Millennium Challenge Account ([http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/mca.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/mca.html)).)

The administration had sought \$3 billion for MCA; the level of spending approved for fiscal 2006 exceeds that for fiscal 2005 by \$282 million.

The board of directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, which administers the MCA, will

meet November 8 to select countries that are eligible to apply for funding during fiscal 2006. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is the board's chair.

The fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria would receive \$2.8 billion, \$268 million more than the administration had requested. (See HIV/AIDS ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/hiv\\_aids.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html)).) The bill also would provide \$61 million for democracy development projects.

Negotiators let stand a House decision to refuse the administration's request for \$459 million for reconstruction projects in Iraq, citing the \$3.5 billion that remains unspent from rebuilding money approved in 2003.

The measure would fund programs to fight terrorism and narcotics trafficking, including \$410.1 million for nonproliferation, anti-terrorism, land-mine removal and related programs; \$477 million for international narcotics control; and \$734 million for the Andean Counterdrug Initiative.

It would fully fund the administration's request for military and economic development assistance for Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Indonesia and Pakistan. Of the \$495 million for economic assistance to Egypt, \$50 million is set aside for political reform programs and \$50 million for education initiatives.

The bill would increase economic assistance for Afghanistan to \$430 million, \$205 million above

2005 level. It would withhold \$225 million, however, until the U.S. secretary of state certifies that the national and local governments in Afghanistan are fully cooperating with U.S.-funded narcotics eradication and interdiction efforts.

The bill includes \$791 million for migration and refugee assistance, \$400 million for disaster and famine assistance, \$1.6 billion for child and maternal health programs and \$1.5 billion for development aid.

Negotiators dropped from the bill language passed in the Senate that would have overturned the Bush administration's policy prohibiting U.S. funding for international family planning programs.

The bill would prohibit assistance to countries that refuse to extradite violent criminals to the United States.

In other action, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee November 1 approved by voice vote a measure that would require the Bush administration to file a progress report by mid-February 2006 on efforts by the United States and other donors to improve health, education and living standards among the world's poorest people.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

---

## United States Releases 2005 International Religious Freedom Report

By Alexandra Abboud  
Washington File Staff Writer

The U.S. Department of State released the seventh annual International Religious Freedom Report, which examines the status of religious freedom around the world.

The annual report to Congress, released November 8, is mandated by the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 and seeks to examine barriers to religious freedom in 197 countries and territories. The report also notes countries in which conditions have improved and outlines U.S. actions to promote international religious freedom.

The 2005 report redesignates Burma, China, Eritrea, Iran, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Vietnam as "Countries of Particular Concern" (CPC) for severe violations of religious freedom. The same countries were listed as CPCs in the 2004 report.

The report reviews countries' commitments to religious freedom and examines barriers to the free practice of religion in several countries, including CPCs.

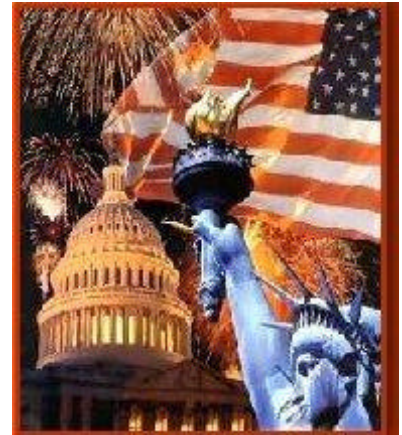
According to the report, Georgia, India, Turkmenistan and United Arab Emirates have showed "significant improvement" in the protection and promotion of religious freedom through modification of legal and social barriers.

Some countries cited in the report curtail religious freedom by controlling religious expression and practice. These countries "regard some or all religious groups as enemies of the state because of their religious beliefs or their independence from central authority."

Other countries named in the report allow the free practice of religion for established, majority religions but curtail religious freedom of "minority or non-approved" religions. These governments are "hostile and oppressive" toward minority religions and implement policies that "demand adherents to recant their faith, cause religious group members to flee the country, or intimidate and harass certain religious groups, or have as their principal effect the intimidation and harassment of certain religious groups," according to the report.

The report also identifies countries that restrict religious freedom through state neglect or discrimination against or persecution of minority religions, discriminatory legislation or policies prejudicial to certain religious practices and denunciations of certain religions by affiliating them with dangerous "cults" or "sects."

The report concludes with an overview of U.S. efforts to promote and support international religious freedom through public ad-



vocacy and support of active monitoring of religious freedom conditions.

"The pursuit of religious liberty supports other freedoms, including speech, assembly, and conscience," according to the report. "When the cause of religious freedom is furthered, so is the pursuit of democracy."

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/>) of the 2005 report and previous reports are available on the State Department Web site.

For more information, see International Religious Freedom ([http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human\\_rights/intl\\_religious\\_freedom.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/dhr/human_rights/intl_religious_freedom.html)).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

---

## Scholarships Established to Honor Rosa Parks' Legacy

By Michael Jay Friedman  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The recent announcement of a "Rosa Parks Civil Liberties Scholarship" established by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) focuses attention on continuing efforts to honor Parks' legacy by making higher education available to all Americans.

Regarded by many as the "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement," Parks died of natural causes on October 24 at her home in Detroit at the age of 92.

The Rosa Parks Scholarship Foundation, founded in 1980 by the Detroit News newspaper and the city of Detroit public schools, has awarded more than \$1.5 million to about 750 students. It annually presents approximately 40 students from Parks' adopted state of Michigan with \$2000 scholarships for use at the university of their choice.

CAIR's \$1,000 Parks Civil Liberties Scholarship will be awarded to students with a demonstrated interest in civil liberties issues and an ability to show how the civil rights movement relates to the American Muslim experience.

In a statement announcing the scholarship, CAIR said: "Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat sparked the civil rights movement and continues to inspire all those who struggle for social justice and equality. It is only fitting that a scholarship aimed at advancing the cause of human dignity be offered in her name."

The Rosa Parks Scholarship simi-



Rosa Parks, "Mother of the Civil Rights Movement"

larly requires active participation in civic and community service, and an essay on the theme: "What makes you a Rosa Parks Scholar? Compare her life with yours."

Many scholarship recipients have patterned their life choices on Parks' model of personal sacrifice for the common good. 1990 Rosa Parks Scholar Dr. Delani Mann-Johnson, for instance, graduated from Spelman College, a historically black institution in Atlanta, and the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland. She now works at People's Health Centers.

A 1996 Rosa Parks scholarship helped labor attorney Karla McKanders attend Spelman College, after which she earned a law degree from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina. Before entering private practice, McKanders interned for two members of Congress -- one of whom was Parks' long-time employer, John Conyers of Michigan -- and for the Center for Integration of Refugees

in Strasbourg, France.

Scholarships honoring the life and works of Rosa Parks reflect a larger pattern of philanthropy toward budding scholars. A recent study estimates that students at U.S. universities receive more than \$3 billion annually in private scholarship aid.

Initiatives to translate Parks' beliefs into practical action are not limited to academic scholarships. In 1987, Rosa Parks and her friend Elaine Eason Steele founded the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Improvement.

The institute's Pathways to Freedom program affords students their own "freedom rides" -- research tours that trace key moments and sites connected with the 18th and 19th century "underground railroad" that transported African American slaves northward to freedom, and with the civil rights movement inspired by Parks.

Parks received numerous public honors and accolades in her lifetime. Now private initiatives and philanthropy will keep her legacy alive.

For additional information, see the Council on American-Islamic Relations (<http://www.cair-net.org/>),

The Rosa L. Parks Scholarship Foundation (<http://www.rosaparksscholarshipfoundation.org/>), and the Rosa and Raymond Parks Institute for Self-Improvement (<http://www.rosaparks.org/index2.html>) Web sites.♦



---

## Foreign Student Enrollment at U.S. Graduate Schools Up in 2005

By Anthony Kujawa  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- First-time enrollment of foreign students at U.S. graduate institutions increased 1 percent from 2004 to 2005, following three years of declines, the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) reports, citing improved admissions and streamlined visa processes as "producing results" to reverse the trend.

According to the CGS study released November 7, first-time enrollment of graduate students from countries in the Middle East at U.S. graduate institutions increased 11 percent from 2004. First-time enrollments from Korea were up 5 percent, and from China and India, up 3 percent each during the same period, the study found.

"This increase in first-time international students is a very good sign, and I am hopeful that it signals a turnaround in the trend of declining numbers of international students attending our graduate institutions," said CGS President Debra W. Stewart, in a press release about the report.

The United States welcomed more than 572,000 foreign students during the 2003-2004 academic year, including 274,000 graduate students; U.S. officials would like to see that figure increase.

"The steps being taken by graduate schools to improve their admissions processes and the efforts made on behalf of the departments

of Homeland Security and State to streamline the visa process and project a more positive image abroad are clearly producing results as reflected in the reversal in the decline in first-year enrollment," the CGS study said.

The CGS data were the final segment of a three-part 2005 survey, part of a multiyear examination of international graduate admission trends.

The 1 percent first-time enrollment increase for 2005 follows three consecutive year-on-year declines in first-time international enrollment (down 8 percent in 2002, down 10 percent in 2003 and down 3 percent in 2004). More than 125 schools responded to the CGS study, including more than 80 percent of the 25 institutions with the largest foreign student enrollments.

### STATE DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS EDUCATION ADVISING CENTERS

The State Department's Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs (ECA) EducationUSA (<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/>) Web site provides useful information and services for prospective students considering study in the United States.

The site offers a menu of types of programs (undergraduate, graduate, specialized professional study, opportunities for scholars, short-term study) as well as links to predeparture information, mate-

rials on living in the United States and tips on choosing an educational institution. The site also includes a link to a find-a-school search engine developed especially for EducationUSA.

EducationUSA provides information on standardized tests, the visa process, admissions, financial aid and links to other U.S. government Web sites and external resources. The site also includes links to publications such as the four-part If You Want to Study in the United States series available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

The State Department also promotes the United States as a study-abroad destination and supports a network of more than 450 educational advising and information centers (<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/centers.htm>) in other countries.

For more information on visa procedures and traveling to the United States, see [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) (<http://www.travel.state.gov/>) and the State Department electronic journal See You in the U.S.A. (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itps/0905/ijpe/ijpe0905.htm>)

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## World Needs Clear Response to Pandemic Flu, U.S. Official Says

The global health community must move beyond generalized planning, and draw up concrete plans for action when an influenza strain emerges that has the potential to set off a pandemic, according to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness Stewart Simonson.

Simonson made the statement November 8 as head of the U.S. delegation to an international meeting on bird flu preparedness in Geneva. On November 2, the United States announced a detailed plan that provides guidance to health care providers and lawmakers at all levels on how to respond should flu become rampant. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Nov/02-653687.html>).)

Simonson called on the World Health Organization (WHO) to convene a group of experts to "define a protocol for a rapid response to the emergence of a pandemic strain." Simonson suggests the group also would propose ways to tighten up the global disease surveillance system, which is the first line of defense against pandemic.

WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) convened the meeting in response to growing concerns about widespread outbreaks of avian influenza in Asia, and most recently in Europe. Health officials warn that conditions are right for a deadly flu strain to become contagious among humans, leading to perhaps millions of deaths, and causing widespread social and economic upheaval. A virulent strain of bird

flu in Asia has killed more than 150 million birds and more than 60 people.

For more information on U.S. and international efforts to combat avian influenza, see Bird Flu/Avian Influenza ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/bird\\_flu.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/bird_flu.html)).

The text of the Simonson statement follows:

(begin text)

Improving Influenza Surveillance and

Developing a Rapid Response Plan for Pandemic Influenza

Statement by Stewart Simonson  
Assistant Secretary for Public Health  
Emergency Preparedness  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Statement to the Meeting on  
Avian Influenza  
WHO Headquarters  
Geneva, Switzerland  
November 8, 2005

Pandemic disease – whether caused by H5N1 influenza or some other microbe – is a threat to all countries, not just those in Asia, and to all economies, not just the rich or poor. We must take decisive action to respond to that threat now.

I want to focus my remarks today on one specific aspect of preparedness: the early recognition and rapid response to the emergence of a pandemic strain. We believe that the international community must take immediate steps



to close the gaps in influenza surveillance (especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America) and reach consensus on what actions will be taken and by whom to contain a pandemic strain when it emerges.

Specifically, in order to do this we

must address the following questions:

What data and facts on the ground will define sustained human-to-human transmission?

What is the concept of operations for the WHO stockpile for antiviral drugs and other materiel?

What other assets will be deployed to the outbreak site, how, and by whom?

How will these assets be used, and by whom?

What technical expertise will be needed, who will provide it, and how soon?

Should international response personnel be pre-identified and made ready for immediate employment? Would it be possible for the governments of affected and at-risk nations to grant flexible, multi-entry visas to these pre-selected experts?

What interventions – pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical – will be employed, and under what conditions?

*(Continued on page 16)*

---

## U.S. Grants Aim to Stop Environment-Related Children's Diseases



By Eric Green  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has awarded seven grants, collectively worth more than \$1 million, aimed at increasing the number of health-care professionals around the world who can address the broad spectrum of children's environmental health issues.

In a November 1 statement, the EPA said that -- among other goals -- the grants will be directed at preventing environment-related diseases in children who live in Latin America, Haiti, Central and Eastern Europe, Kenya, India, Canada and in several U.S. states.

"As science develops, so does our understanding of how the natural environment affects our physical health -- especially for our most vulnerable residents," said EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson. "EPA is proud to be providing health professionals, both here and

throughout the world, [with] the information they can use to protect children from possible hazards in their environment."

Among the recipients of the grants is the Canadian Institute of Child Health in Ottawa. The grant of almost \$150,000, will be used for a project to increase to as many as 37,000 the number of health-care professionals in Canada, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay who can recognize, assess and initiate ways to prevent environment-related diseases in children.

The EPA said resources and training developed in this project will be shared internationally through the Internet and by the Canadian project's partners, which include the World Health Organization and the Switzerland-based International Society for Doctors for the Environment.

Another grant recipient is the Boston-based International Pediatric Association, which will launch a virtual "International Pediatric Environmental Health Leadership Institute" that eventually could train up to 500,000 pediatricians on diagnosing, preventing and managing pediatric diseases linked to the environment. Pilot efforts under this grant, valued at \$150,000, will train pediatricians in India, Kenya and Haiti.

A list (<http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/building2005.htm>) of the other groups receiving grants is available

on the EPA Web site.

The funds for the grants were provided by EPA's Office of Children's Health Protection. The mission of this office is to promote



**Stephen Johnson**  
EPA Administrator

environmental health protection for children and older adults in the United States and globally.

More information (<http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/homepage>) on EPA's children's health protection program is available on the agency's Web site.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

---

## Measles Down by 60 Percent in Africa, 1 Million Lives Saved

More than 200 million children in Africa have been vaccinated against measles and 1 million lives saved since 1999, according to the results reported by the partners of the Measles Initiative (MI) November 2.

At the same time, the U.N. Foundation, a private support group allied with the United Nations, announced a \$20 million commitment to continue the work begun in 2001 by MI.

The World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, the American Red Cross, the U.N. Foundation and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are partners in MI, which strives to vaccinate 200 million African children against this infectious disease.

Almost forgotten in some developed nations where access to childhood immunizations is widespread, measles remains a major



**Eleven-year-old street child Haile Belete receives his measles vaccine at the vaccination centre in Woliso**

childhood killer worldwide, with 500,000 deaths from the disease in 2003 alone.

"The Measles Initiative has had tremendous success in reducing measles deaths and we can't stop now," said U.N. Foundation Chairman Ted Turner. "Going forward we must build upon the Initiative's accomplishments in Africa, use these campaigns to distribute ma-

laria bed nets, and expand our activities into other measles-ravaged areas such as Asia."

MI said the immunization campaign has contributed to lowering child mortality worldwide, and to making broader improvements in child health. The newest MI effort is to expand the "integrated child health campaigns" in which health workers provide measles vaccines, but also anti-malarial bed nets, Vitamin A, de-worming medication and polio vaccines.

The text of the joint news release on Measles Initiative (<http://www.measlesinitiative.org/index3.asp>) progress follows:

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦*

## World Needs Clear Response to Pandemic Flu . . .

*(Continued from page 14)*

We must go beyond generalized planning and well-intentioned expressions of cooperation. Now is the time to speak and act with specificity. We therefore propose that the WHO immediately convene a small group of experts to draft a plan to close the gaps in influenza surveillance and to define a protocol for a rapid response to the emergence of a pandemic strain. This plan should be completed in time for consid-

eration by the WHO Executive Board in January.

Finally, with the threat of a pandemic looming, we believe it important that countries voluntarily comply now with the relevant provisions of the recently revised WHO International Health Regulations in advance of their formal entry into force in 2007. Among other things and of particular importance in the context of pandemic influenza, the regulations

stress the importance of early reporting of any potential public health emergency of international concern.

(end text)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦*



PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
SECTION  
AMERICAN EMBASSY

P.O.Box 1014  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-1-174007  
251-1-174000  
Fax: 251-1-242454  
Email: pasaddis@state.gov



## African Muslim Says Islam in America Teaches Reconciliation . . .

*(Continued from page 7)*

Shi'as, he told the roundtable participants.

Prompted by audience comments about the low level of education among Mozambican Muslims, Valy called for more and better education in general in Africa. American Muslims, he said, succeed in part because of their educational attainments.

One explanation for the unity of American Islam, he said, lies in its well-educated leadership. Valy said that he met American imams with doctorates in political science and other social sciences, and that most hold undergraduate degrees.

Valy also challenged the notion held by some that Islam discourages

women from working. Even in Saudi Arabia, he said, women work within the home. The question is not whether women will work; it is rather what kind of work they will do. Educate women, he said, and the country and Islam will move forward. Leave them ignorant, and they will hold back the community and the country, he said.

For additional information, see Muslim Life in America (<http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/muslimlife/homepage.htm>).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## Africans and Americans Must Build on AGOA Foundation . . .

*(Continued from page 8)*

lack of financing. "Companies are not going to Africa because ... they do not have the financing they need," he warned.

"U.S. financial interests seldom fund U.S. companies for investments in Africa, and the banking system in Africa has traditionally never supported small business in the private sector and no micro-credit" to speak of, he said.

CCA, he said, has formed an agricultural task force bringing together key U.S. agricultural companies and a financing task force bringing together key financiers along with the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the World Bank and the U.S. Export-Import Bank. Additionally, he said, CCA will continue to develop its energy task force and will an-

nounce the formation of a small business task force in the next few weeks, to link U.S. small business with African small business.

"I think unless Africa's small business sector is able to develop, then you are not going to develop a middle class in these countries and will still have a lot of instability. One of the keys to our own development here [in the United States] has been small business. Eighty-five percent of our work force is in small business. So how do you start to link some of those small businesses with African small business? That is what we are going to address."

Asked to assess the level of awareness of business opportunities in Africa by American business, Hayes said Africa is still "a tough sell."

Even though CCA's greatest area of growth has been small and medium-sized businesses, it is also the category with the highest turnover, he said. "They stay a year or two. They need contracts, but often lack the financing they need to develop business long-term. That must be corrected," he said.

The Corporate Council on Africa, established in 1993, works to strengthen and facilitate the commercial relationship between the United States and the African continent. CCA works closely with governments, multilateral groups and businesses to improve the African continent's trade and investment climate and to raise the profile of Africa in the U.S. business community. ♦